REMARKS

In the Action, claims 1-16 are rejected. In response, claims 1 and 13 are amended to clarify that the predetermined buffer time is selected by the user from the input unit. These amendments are supported by the specification as originally filed.

In view of these amendments and the following comments, reconsideration and allowance are requested.

The Rejections

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0118321 to Sparrell et al. Sparrell et al. is cited for disclosing a video apparatus that is able to store a video signal for temporary storage and storing the video signal in a long term storage unit.

Sparrell et al. does not disclose or suggest a video recording/reproducing apparatus having an input unit operated by a user for selecting a function and for the user selecting a predetermined buffer time among a plurality of allocated predetermined buffer times and outputting a command corresponding to the selected buffer time. The Action fails to identify where Sparrell et al. suggests a controller operated by the user where the user selects the allocated buffer time from a plurality of allocated predetermined buffer times. Accordingly, the Action clearly fails to establish anticipation of claim 1.

Sparrell et al. in paragraph 0027 discloses that if a user begins viewing an hour-long program ten minutes after the start of the program, the buffer will need enough capacity to record a fifty-minute program. Thus, the buffer of Sparrell et al. is determined according to the entire quantity of the program. In contrast, the user in the apparatus of the present invention selects a predetermined buffer time among a plurality of allocated predetermined buffer times.

Furthermore, Sparrell et al. does not disclose the combination of an input unit operated by the user for selecting a predetermined buffer time with the main control for temporarily storing a received video signal in a temporary allocated buffer area corresponding to the allocated buffer time selected by the user in the storage device and where the video signal is temporarily stored in the buffer area or in a non-recording area of the storage device on a long term basis. The apparatus and method of the present invention enables the user to select a buffer time of a predetermined length from a plurality of allocated buffer times. Sparrell et al. does not suggest a user selected buffer time. In the present invention, the user is able to select the allocated time for the temporary storage from a menu of the available storage buffer times. The image signals are then stored in the buffer area of the storage device based on the buffer time selected by the user.

Sparrell et al. storages the image signals in a buffer area for the duration of time corresponding to the playback time of the program of interest. The Action refers to paragraph 0027 as allegedly disclosing the selected buffer time. However, as specifically disclosed in this passage of Sparrell et al., the record/playback service 106 establishes the buffers of the appropriate size for the recording programs. Thus, the record/playback service 106 determines the capacity of the buffer required to record the remaining portion of the program. The buffer time of Sparrell et al. is not selected by the user as in the claimed invention. The storage times of Sparrell et al. are based on the information provided by the program and not information selected by the user.

Sparrell et al. discloses a program guide source to provide program length information and a buffer memory established in size to match the program length calculated by the converter. The buffer memory size is then matched to record the program of interest based on the program guide source. Sparrell et al. further discloses a system for digital video recording for live pause recording and playback that does not use the small circular buffer. A program guide source is

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selected by Sparrell et al. to provide the program length information. The system then converts the program length information into a corresponding buffer memory size and the video program determines the buffer size according to the information provided to the system.

In contrast to Sparrell et al., the present invention enables a user to select the buffer time rather than requiring the system to automatically calculate the buffer time. The buffer time is selected by the user from a plurality of possible buffer times from the buffer time menu which is displayed together with the main menu and submenu. Sparrell et al. clearly does not disclose or suggest this feature of the present invention. Sparrell et al. further fails to disclose a main control unit for temporarily storing a video signal in the allocated buffer area in the storage device corresponding to the selected buffer time which is selected by the user when a command for temporary storage is received from the input unit and for recording the temporary video signal of the selected buffer time for long term storage in the storage device. Accordingly, independent claim 1 is not anticipated by Sparrell et al.

Page 6 of the Action rejects independent claim 13 "for the same subject matter as claims 1, 2 and 4". This general statement does not establish anticipation and fails to establish a proper rejection in a manner that enables Applicants to properly respond. Independent claim 1 is an apparatus claim which recites an input unit and a main control unit. Independent claim 13 is directed to a method for storage control comprising the steps of storing a received video signal and storing the temporarily stored video signal. Thus, the method steps of claim 13 are clearly not the same subject matter as the apparatus of claim 1. Furthermore, the Action clearly fails to establish anticipation of the recited method steps.

For the reasons discussed above, Sparrell et al. does not disclose the step of storing a received video signal in a buffer area where the allocated buffer time is selected by the user by an input unit as recited in claim 13. Sparrell et al. further fails to disclose the user selecting a buffer time among a plurality of predetermined buffer times for temporarily storing a video

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signal. Sparrell et al. discloses the record/playback service as determining the appropriate size needed for the buffer for recording the program. As disclosed in paragraph 0027 of Sparrell et al., the record/playback service determines the buffer that is needed. The buffer time is not selected by the user in the system of Sparrell et al. Accordingly, independent claim 13 is not anticipated by Sparrell et al.

The dependent claims are also allowable as depending from an allowable base claim and for reciting additional features of the invention that are not disclosed or suggested in Sparrell et al. For example, Sparrell et al. does not disclose setting a new buffer area in a non-recording area of the storage device upon receiving a signal for long term recording and recording attribute information of the long term recorded video signal in an attribute information recording area as in claim 2, or incorporating the remaining storage space from the selected buffer time selected by the user into a non-recording area of the main control unit as in claim 3, either alone or in combination with the features of claim 1.

Sparrell et al. does not disclose a main control unit, copying and recording the temporary stored video signal in a non-recording area of the storage device, and deleting the video signal temporarily stored in the buffer area as in claim 4. Sparrell et al. discloses that the buffer memory is used to initially store the program and is then used as the long term memory. There is no disclosure in Sparrell et al. of copying the temporary video signal in the buffer area and storing or recording in a non-recording area as recited in claim 4.

Sparrell et al. also does not disclose the attribute information of claim 5, receiving a command signal for deleting video temporarily stored in the buffer area having the selected predetermined buffer time as in claim 6, an interface unit mounted in a main body to receive the command transmitted from the input unit by the user as in claim 7, the input unit including an external input as in claim 8, the external unit being a remote controller as in claim 9, the apparatus having an interface unit mounted in the main body and having a light receiving part

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for receiving infrared signals as in claim 10, the specified video signal source of claim 11, or the storage device having a hard disk drive as in claim 12, in combination with the features of claim 1.

Claims 14-16 are also allowable as depending from claim 13. Sparrell et al. does not disclose a storage device control method where the new buffer area in the non-recording area of the storage device is set and recording the temporarily stored video signal of a previous buffer area in the predetermined buffer time in a long term basis and recording attribute information in attribute information recording area as in claim 14, copying and recording the temporary video signal from the buffer area in the recording area of the storage device and deleting the temporary stored video signal as in claim 15, or the input unit being external of the video recording apparatus as in claim 16, in combination with the method steps of claim 13.

In view of these amendments and the above comments, reconsideration and allowance are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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